



Friday, May 23, 2008

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In This Issue:

*Governor asks
Pres. Bush to
designate Rose
Atoll National
Monument
pg. 2*

*Governor
Togiola signs
Military voting
Bill into Law
pg. 3*

*AS Flag
featured in new
First Class
Stamp
pg. 3*

*Governor
proclaims
Armed Forces
Day
pg. 4*

*Governor
writes to
Congress to
stall min. wage
increase
pg. 5*

*Historical Notes
& much, much
more...*

*For additional
news,
information
and much,
much more
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Good news: Territory accepted under the federal low income housing program

Governor Togiola Tulafono announced the good news during his weekend radio program: American Samoa has been accepted into the federal 'low income housing' program, which provides tax credit to companies to construct rental homes for low income families.

The Governor said companies will benefit under the tax credit but more importantly, local low income families working hard to find affordable houses or apartments for rent will also benefit from the program.

According to Togiola, the current advertised price for a two-bedroom home runs about \$1,000 a month. But under the program, the price for a two-bedroom would drop down less than half to \$400 a month, or even lower.

The Governor's Office is currently working on a plan to be submitted to the appropriate federal agency and once approved, the territory will move forward on this new and important venture.

The program will be carried out by the Development Bank of American Samoa. DBAS has been designated as the territory's housing authority, which is a requirement for the housing tax credit law.

The Governor explained that the new initiative will be a big help to the territory's low income families, and the homes and apartment complexes can be erected on either government land or family communal land.

The tax credit was created by Congress in 1986 to encourage construction and rehabilitation of apartments affordable to low-income families, by offering a credit or reduction in tax liability for 10 years to the owners or developers of such housing projects.

Property owners can use the tax credits to reduce federal income taxes, which are generally taken by outside investors who front the initial development funds for the project. In order to qualify for the tax credits, a project must have a specific proportion of its units set aside for lower income households, and the rent charges for the units are limited up to a maximum of \$305.

Togiola says he hopes the new program will be in place for American Samoa within a year.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7

Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124

Governor requests President Bush to designate Rose Atoll as national monument

Governor Togiola Tulafono has requested that US President George W. Bush designate the Rose Atoll as a national monument.

Earlier this year in March, after visiting the Rose Atoll for the very first time accompanied by NOAA scientists and researchers, Togiola announced that he will request the designation from the federal government.

In a letter to President Bush, the Governor explained that national monuments highlight not only the protection of a designated area, but to serve notice for the nation and the world that we value the many awe-inspiring and diverse natural and cultural resources found not only in the US, but also in its territories.

The Rose Atoll is home to large 85-foot trees and serves as a vital undisturbed nesting ground for the endangered green sea turtle. In addition, it also provides habitat to 12 species of migratory birds, and several species of insects and small animals.

According to the Governor, the national monument status will provide greater protection for the Atoll.

Filifaatali appointed as acting police commissioner

Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety Filifaatali Mike Fuiava has been appointed by Governor Togiola Tulafono to serve as acting police commissioner.

(An official announcement as to who will be appointed to serve as the next DPS Commissioner is yet to be made. Nonetheless, the appointee must first be confirmed by the local Legislature).

Filifaatali's appointment comes after Governor Togiola accepted the resignation of former DPS Commissioner Sotoa Savali who stepped down from the post after his brother, former ASG treasurer Velega Savali, publicly announced that he was running for Lt. Governor of American Samoa in the upcoming gubernatorial election in November.

In his memorandum, the Governor said that Filifaatali will discharge all the responsibilities, duties, and general authority of the director of the Department of Public Safety until further notice.

The Governor also urged everyone to extend to Filifaatali their support and cooperation.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On May 17, 1961, American Samoa's Governor Hyrum Rex Lee ratified House Bill No. 5: "An Act to Create a Board of Registration for Professional Surveys and to Provide for the Regulation of Professional Surveyors."

On May 18, 1836, the United States Congress authorized funds for the United States Exploring Expedition (the "Wilkes Expedition"), which would visit Samoa in 1839.

On May 18, 1956, Jack Thompson, "The Throwin' Samoan," was born in American Samoa to parents Jack and Salamumu Thompson of Alao, Tutuila. On January 24, 1982, in Super Bowl XVI, quarterback Thompson of the Cincinnati Bengals became the first Samoan member of a Super Bowl team (although he did not play in Super Bowl XVI).

On May 19, 1914, the Bank of American Samoa was established by the Government of American Samoa. "The primary object was to induce the natives to save money; it also provides the community with the usual banking facilities."

On May 19, 2003, landslides caused by torrential rainfall resulted in widespread flooding in American Samoa. Four people were killed and eight injured. Governor Togiola Tulafono declared a Territorial State of Emergency "with all non-essential government services and schools to remain closed."

On May 21, 1908, Captain John F. Parker, U.S. Navy (Retired) relieved Commander Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, and became American Samoa's sixth naval governor (until November 10, 1910).

On May 21, 1969, Salanoa Aumoeualo, President of American Samoa's Senate, sent a letter to John M. Haydon congratulating him on his appointment as Governor of American Samoa.

On May 22, 1875, Malietoa Laupepa became "King" of Samoa under the new constitution, and Albert Barnes Steinberger was appointed Premier.

On May 22, 1907, USS *Annapolis* replaced USS *Adams* as the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila's station ship.

On May 22, 1938, Pan American Airways' Frank McKenzie, "who had been in charge of building the bases at Wake and Midway in 1935, was given the task of surveying Canton Island [in the Phoenix Islands] for Pan Am...He departed Pago Pago Harbor aboard the U.S.S. Ontario, a coal-burning tug stationed in American Samoa, for the three-day trip to Canton Island."

On May 22, 1943, Lieutenant W.W. Bemis, U.S. Navy, became the first commander of California's Samoa Airport, which served as a base for seaplanes and blimps during World War II. Their primary mission was anti-submarine warfare.

On May 22, 1960, a *tsunami* ("tidal wave"), "resulting from the earthquakes in South America", reached American Samoa. "The tidal wave reached Pago Pago at approximately 8:15 p.m.--about 2 hours after having received the first alert from Honolulu." The wave damaged Poyer School and two private houses. "Fortunately, the wave arrived at the falling tide; otherwise the damage would have been greater. It was estimated that the height of the wave was about 8 feet."

Governor Togiola signs military voting bill into law

After long discussions and debates over amendments and changes, a compromise was reached between the Governor's Office and the Fono's legal team regarding the language of the military voting legislation that Governor Togiola Tulafono has signed into law.

The legislation provides for absentee registration and voting for military personnel and their dependents for both the gubernatorial election and the local race for House of Representatives.

In a letter to the Fono leadership, Togiola wrote, "The bill goes a long way towards maximizing access to the voting process for uniformed service members who, because of said service, cannot be present in the territory during our local elections."

The Governor continued, "This bill is a testament to our support for our Toa o Samoa who serve their country and island home all over the globe."

The legislation, according to the Governor, "is an appropriate way to honor the commitment of our sons and daughters who serve their country and territory in uniform."

A copy of the newly signed law has been delivered to the local Election Office, and staff members will be preparing the necessary paperwork and forms which will be provided to the military to assist in registering all American Samoans serving in the US Armed Forces.

The bill will be in effect during the upcoming gubernatorial election set for later this year in November.

The new law states that a uniformed services voter is exempt from having to register in person at the Election Office to vote in the gubernatorial and House races. However, military personnel who wish to register as a qualified elector for local elective offices must provide that American Samoa is their home of record and legal domicile.

The bill also states that the Chief Election Officer establish absentee registration and voting procedures to afford maximum access to the polls by qualified absent uniformed services voters, and adopt such forms as necessary to implement provisions of this act.

Such forms shall at a minimum require the applicant to furnish the information called for on the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), supplemented with the applicant's home of record/legal domicile, date of departure from American Samoa, and verification of the applicant's active military status.

Spouses or dependents of a uniformed services member shall provide verification of their dependent status.

Lastly, the Chief Election Officer shall also establish procedures applicable to elections subsequent to the applicant's initial registration.

First class stamp featuring AS flag to be released next month

The flag of American Samoa will be featured on a new first class stamp set to be released on June 14. The new stamp is part of the new series of stamps by the US Postal Service to honor the flags of all 50 states, the five territories, and the District of Columbia.

The stamp is scheduled to be unveiled on June 14 at the Executive Office Building (EOB) in Utulei, in the presence of Governor Togiola Tulafono.

American Samoa is fortunate to have its stamp released early, along with Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, and Delaware.

The stamps were created by Tom Engeman of Brunswick, MD, and features highly detailed flag portraits, state seals, and coat of arms. In addition, each stamp design includes artwork that provides a snapshot view of the state or area represented by each particular flag.

American Samoa's stamp will feature a blue flag with a red-edged white triangle where an American bald eagle is pictured clutching the traditional Samoan symbols of a war club and a staff.

American Samoa was last honored with a stamp in 2000, the year that marked a century since she became a territory of the United States.

10TH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS COMING SOON...
PLEASE KEEP AMERICAN SAMOA CLEAN!
FA'AMAMA AMERIKA SAMOA!

Governor proclaims Armed Forces Day in the territory

This is the first year that American Samoa is celebrating Armed Forces Day.

In his message, Governor Togiola Tulafono wrote, “The people and government of the United States Territory of American Samoa say thank you and God bless you, to all our men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States of America for your patriotic service in support of our people and our Nation.”

Also, he added, “During this 2008 Armed Forces Day remembrance, we specially honor the sons and daughters of American Samoa serving in all the branches of the United States Armed Forces everywhere in the world.”

Togiola has proclaimed the third Saturday in May as the day to honor and pay tribute to our Toa o Samoa serving in all branches of the US military. In addition, the Governor has ordered that all flags in the territory be flown at half staff today, “in commemoration of this auspicious day in American Samoa.”

In his proclamation, the Governor said that the men and women in uniform are serving throughout the world as protectors of peace, and they deserve recognition for their sacrifice and commitment in protecting and preserving our great nation and territory.

“I urge all citizens and residents of the territory to join me in paying special tribute to our local heroes, our Toa o Samoa, who serve selflessly and proudly in every corner of the world and in all branches of the US Armed Forces,” the Governor said. “I also urge all citizens and residents to join together in prayer for their protection and their safe return to the shores of their island home.”

Togiola added, “We thank you all for your volunteerism and commitment to defend our flag, our people, and our homeland. We thank you also for your commitment to protect the freedom and liberty of all God’s people in the world.”

The Governor concluded, “Our prayers shall be that our God blesses and protects you and your families always.”

APIL adopts resolution supporting emergency assistance for AS and CNMI

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) has adopted a resolution that urges the US Congress to provide an emergency supplemental appropriation of \$15 million each for American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

(Last month, Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin and CNMI Governor Benigno Fital wrote to congressional leaders, requesting a \$30-million-dollar appropriation for American Samoa and the CNMI to off-set the new minimum wage increases which are scheduled to be implemented in less than two weeks).

The appropriation is to provide assistance for the two US territories in case the next minimum wage hike, set to go into effect later this month on May 25, is not stopped or delayed.

The request will be added to a federal emergency appropriation bill that is pending before the US Congress.

The APIL is also supporting a concurrent resolution from the Fono that supports Congressman Faleomavaega’s bill to condition increases for American Samoa and the CNMI, based on a finding by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Interior and the governments of the two territories.

The resolution gained support and approval during the APIL meeting recently held in Guam.

The APIL resolution will be forwarded to not only congressional committees with appropriation oversight, but also to senior congressional members and political leaders from both the CNMI and American Samoa.

Governor writes to Congress about stalling minimum wage increase

Governor Togiola Tulafono has written a letter to US Representative George Miller and US Senator Edward Kennedy, requesting a delay to the next minimum wage hike (set to go into effect May 25), and reminding them that the minimum wage increase would result in massive layoffs, meaning people will be stuck with no jobs.

(Kennedy and Miller, who chair the respective US Senate and House committees that have jurisdiction over the minimum wage issue, are opposed to the US Department of Labor report which assessed the impact of the minimum wage increase in the territory).

This is the second letter, written within a month, that the Governor has submitted to US Congressional members to address the minimum wage hike issue. Copies of the letter have been forwarded to Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin and other members of Congress.

During his weekend radio program, Togiola said that his letter to Kennedy and Miller is to once again repeat his request of delaying the next wage hike until a full review of local economic conditions is completed.

According to Faleomavaega, Kennedy and Miller say that the canneries, the DOL, and other employers in American Samoa, as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), have failed to provide Congress with enough evidence to stop further increases in the minimum wage.

Governor Togiola said it is inevitable that the next minimum wage increase will go forward as expected, and the only thing left to do is to continue to remind US Congressional members of the impact such an increase would have on the territory.

The Governor said that while he and other local leaders are in support of increases in minimum wages for the territory's residents, such increases should be based on the local economy, not the US economy. He said wage hikes would result in layoffs and added that it is better to have jobs than none at all.

LBJ lab employees receive certificates for IATA training

A half dozen employees working in the LBJ Medical Center Laboratory have received certificates for completing a two-day training in International Air Transport Association (IATA) packing and shipping.

They are: Sefo Seko, Pua Pila, Mereamo Delana, Amita Blanco, Seini Piukoto, and Auro Leofili. In addition to them, the class also included two employees from the local Department of Agriculture and a representative from Samoa.

The certificates fulfill the requirement necessary for lab workers to ship specimen(s) off island, and this is also part of the lab's certification process.

The certificates are valid until April 2010.

The training was conducted by Vasiti Uluiiti of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA).

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

ASG collections up compared to last two years

The Treasury Monthly Financial Overview Report for March 2008 submitted by ASG Treasurer Gaea Perefoti Failautusi to Governor Togiola Tulafono reveals that the total cash collections (local funds) for March 2008 reached \$6,719,958 - which is an increase from the same time in the two previous years 2007 (\$6,213,716), and 2006 (\$5,639,155).

On his weekend radio program, Governor Togiola said he received a report from Gaea showing that revenue collections are steady and many outstanding debts have been paid off. According to the Governor, some of the debts in question dated back to 2003 and 2004.

Certain American Samoa Government departments, agencies, and funding sources are to be credited for the boost in cash collections.

Obvious stand-outs include the Department of Health which upped their collections by more than 400% from \$1,160 in March 2006 and \$1,530 in March 2007 to \$7,815 in March 2008.

The Tax Office also finished off the month wonderfully, bringing in more than \$3.1 million compared to the nearly \$2.4 million it brought in the same time last year. The Procurement Office nearly tripled their collections from \$12,859 last March to \$38,626 two months ago.

Traffic Violations and the Administrative Law Office, both of which didn't record any cash collections in March 2007 collected \$5,965 and \$100, respectively, the same time this year.

Other ASG departments, agencies, and funding sources that deserve recognition include:

SOURCE	2008	2007
Revenue	\$140,026	\$126,798
Immigration	\$146,105	\$140,158
Dept. of Public Safety	\$ 726	\$ 626
Attorney General's Office	\$ 34,315	\$ 31,055
Judicial	\$ 38,259	\$ 28,174
Administrative Services	\$ 7,592	\$ 3,789
Tax Reserve	\$564,668	\$424,872
Workmen's Compensation	\$ 90,387	\$ 88,069
Port	\$362,952	\$259,877
Airport/GF	\$108,279	\$ 73,378

According to the report, money collected from the LBJ loan remains the same, at \$91,667 for March 2007 and 2008.

Governor's Office seeks proposals for Safe and Drug Free Schools and Community Program

The Office of the Governor is currently accepting proposals for its 2007-2008 Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program. Eligible applicants include community-based groups, local school divisions, and other public entities and private organizations.

Complete proposals must include needs and justification for the proposed program; goals, objectives, and proposed activities; implementation plan and timeline; evaluation procedures; and budget narrative.

The funds are authorized under the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 2001, Title IV, Part A, No Child Left Behind Act 2001.

The Governor's Safe and Drug Free School and Communities Act discretionary grants are intended to support drug abuse and violence prevention activities, including activities that prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs; involve parents and communities; and coordinated with related federal, school, and community efforts and resources to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student academic achievement.

Proposals will undergo a peer review process for quality, based on the established criteria in the complete RFP available at the Governor's Office or online at www.americansamoa.gov

These are discretionary grants and awards that will be based on the quality of the program and how it meets the Principle of Effectiveness described in SDFS Act Section 4155(a).

Mandatory meetings are required of all successful grantees, and the deadline is September 30, 2008.

A complete copy of the RFP and proposal requirements contract can be obtained from Jacinta Galea'i at the Governor's Office (633-4116), or log on to www.americansamoa.gov and click on the Office of the Governor.

CRAG sponsors ‘coral reef aiga bus’ for Pacific Festival

The Governor’s Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) is sponsoring an ‘aiga bus painted with an image of underwater coral reefs that will be used to transport people during the upcoming 10th Festival of Pacific Arts set to be hosted locally from July 20 – August 2.

(CRAG works to provide the government of American Samoa with advice, guidance, and project management regarding coral reef related issues. In order to better protect and manage coral reefs, the American Samoa Government developed the Coral Reef Initiative, which is administered by CRAG, an inter-agency task force composed of representatives from the Department of Commerce (DOC), the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), the National Park of American Samoa, the AS Environmental Protection Agency, and the American Samoa Community College).

During a press conference in the DOC conference room yesterday, CRAG coordinator Jeremy Goldberg explained that the goal of the project is to raise awareness about the importance of coral reefs, educate people of the threats to their sustainability, and motivate people to take action to protect them.

The artwork is being carried out by Aleki Salevao, a former ASCC art student who studied under local artist Reggie Meredith.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by both DOC director Faleseu Eliu Paopao and bus owner Muagututi’a Sitivi Luamanuvae who offered a brand new bus from his fleet for the project.

“Previous Pacific Arts Festivals have stimulated a new sense of cultural pride among islanders,” said Faleseu during a brief speech. “We would like to help expand this effort by using the festival venue to stimulate a sense of environmental pride and responsibility.”

Faleseu continued, “American Samoa’s coral reefs are important for the Fa’aSamoa, as they provide us with food and help protect our communities from storms and waves. For these reasons, we must protect and conserve coral reefs.”

The DOC director pointed out that the main form of transportation for the Festival participants will be aiga buses. And as a joint project with the Year of the Reef and the Arts Festival, CRAG decided to paint an underwater coral reef image on a new aiga bus.

The bus is expected to be unveiled within the next week and will not only be providing transportation for the territory’s commuters, but inspiration as well.

“Island visitors and residents can witness the underwater beauty each time the aiga bus passes by, and passengers on the bus can learn about coral reefs from the informational brochures that we will distribute during the Festival,” Faleseu said.

Goldberg explained that a proposal was forwarded to the coordinators of the Arts Festival requesting collaboration on ways to raise awareness during the International Year of the Reef. “We believe that painting this bus and distributing brochures to the passengers are two ways to raise awareness about the issue,” he said. “The bus will be used as a way of sending a message to our local residents as well as educating the public.”

The bus name is: “Fa’asao mo a Taeao.” or “Save for Tomorrow.”

CRAG launches ‘Reef Watchers’ and solicits tattoo designs for Arts Festival

The Governor’s Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) is looking for tattoo designs and soliciting help from local residents, even the territory’s youngest artists, as part of the upcoming 10th Festival of Pacific Arts, to be hosted locally from July 20–August 2.

Temporary tattoos are being prepared by CRAG for distribution during the event.

CRAG is seeking help from children, artists, and any interested members of the general public who think they have what it takes to produce a temporary tattoo that focuses on artwork symbolizing the conservation of marine life including coral reefs, fish, and/or other ocean creatures.

The use of traditional designs to promote conservation and protection of marine life are highly recommended. Artists are encouraged to be creative and include a sentence about what their submitted tattoo means.

The winners of the competition will have their artwork turned into a temporary tattoo to be distributed during the Pacific Arts Festival. The winner will also receive a paint set from world renowned artists Wyland, a DVD, and a book. The second prize winner will receive a DVD, while the third prize winner will receive a book.

The deadline for submissions is May 29, at 12noon. Entries must be submitted to Derek Toloumu at the Department of Commerce. *(Continued on page 8)*

DPS makes internal changes, re-opens East Substation

The Department of Public Safety's East Substation in Faga'itua is up and running once again, after operations were shut down two years ago because of the lack of manpower. "People residing in the eastern district deserve nothing less than their fair share of our services," Acting Police Commissioner Filifaatali Mike Fuiava wrote in a personnel memo dated May 15.

The East Substation is now headed by Lt. To'o Leaupepe and manned by ten police officers, including two firemen from the DPS Fire Bureau who have been stationed at Faga'itua for the past six months.

The substation will be manned - 24 hours a day, seven days a week - by police officers who have been reassigned there from various DPS divisions. "It is true that we are still short of manpower but that will not relieve us of our obligations," Filifaatali wrote.

Each shift (morning, day, evening) will include three officers and a watch commander, with Leaupepe pulling duty when watch commanders take their days off.

Also in his memo, Filifaatali has ordered that all line functions of the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP), including the program's six officers and vehicles, will be transferred to the Police Services Bureau.

In addition, five other police officers have been reassigned from one division to another.

Filifaatali explained that the reassignment of personnel is to maximize the utilization of all available bodies in DPS in order to meet public demands.

"My job as the captain of our ship is not only to make sure that our ship is afloat but is on course," Filifaatali wrote. "In doing that, every crew member has to perform his/her assigned duties. This holds true to our services for the people of American Samoa."

Last Friday, flags were flown at half staff per a local declaration issued by Governor Togiola Tulafono in honor of Peace Officers' Memorial Day. The order coincides with the national proclamation issued by US President George Bush in celebration of Police Week.

Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week are held to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for public safety.

CRAG launches 'Reef Watchers'... *(continued from page 7)*

CRAG has also launched "Reef Watchers," a group of people that will help protect the environment by conducting a community clean-up around their individual areas.

"This is your opportunity to take part in saving our coral reefs!" said a CRAG statement. It's simple. Interested individuals can start by gathering a team of people who are willing to support the program, and then finding a designated area they prefer cleaning.

The good news is, CRAG provides all the necessities for the clean-up.

Reef Watchers efforts kicked off on Saturday, May 17 with 15 local youth picking up trash and other debris around the Tafuna area between KS Mart and the Tafuna DPS substation. The group was joined by members of the Word of Life Church group and the two teams filled up more than 20 large trash bags full of garbage.

CRAG says the focus is to start off small, and the goal is to spread around the island. CRAG's Education and Outreach program is currently trying to recruit more volunteer Reef Watchers.

Other clean-ups will be conducted on May 26 and every few weeks after that.

All questions, comments, and concerns can be forwarded directly to Derek Toloumu at the Department of Commerce or CRAG coordinator Jeremy Goldberg at 633-5155.

Interested individuals can also learn more by logging on to: <http://doc.asg.as/CRAG>.

UCEDD and Public Health to Hold Cancer Screening

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), based at the American Samoa Community College, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, will offer a free screening for breast and cervical cancer for women with disabilities on Tuesday, May 20th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nazareth House-Fatuaiga. While the UCEDD and Public Health hope to primarily serve women with disabilities, they will also examine women from the general public free of charge.

“We would like to invite any woman who has a disability, as well as parents who may have a concern for their daughter with a disability, to attend this screening,” said David J. Gabriel of the UCEDD. “Researchers have found that complications in the breast and cervical areas are the leading causes of cancer in women around the world, and also that women with disabilities don’t receive regular screenings as often as they should. Only a small percentage of women with disabilities actually get screened for any type of cancer, so as part of Mental Health Awareness Month, the UCEDD and Public Health will offer this free service for women with disabilities as well women in general.”

In addition to Gabriel and UCEDD Director Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola, Public Health officials Margaret Sesepasara and Tele Frost-Hill will also offer their expertise during the screenings. “We hope that all women with disabilities in American Samoa will come join us for this free service to help them maintain good health,” said Gabriel. “We will also gladly screen any women who also want to come by.” For more information on Tuesday’s screening, contact Gabriel by calling the main ASCC phone line at 699-9155, and ask for extension 438.

1st Place Winner of Nurses’ Week Essay Contest:

A Rare Breed

*by Monica Fe’a-Iosefa
(a proud nurse)*

One wonders what Nursing is. Many definitions of Nursing exist. Over a hundred years ago, Florence Nightingale said that Nursing is “the act of utilizing the environment of the client to assist him in his recovery,” whereas, Virginia Henderson explained that the “unique functions of the nurse is to assist the individual --sick or well—in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge, and to do this in such a way as to help him gain independence as rapidly as possible.” Nursing has also been described as a “unique blend of art and science.”

In contrast to Medicine, Nursing focuses on the person’s physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual responses to illness, rather than just focusing on treating the disease. This is the nurse’s clear and unique role that no other job, profession or even vocation can claim as their own. We, as nurses, are a special breed. We have a special calling to fulfill. And in fulfilling this, we make a difference in this world.

Nurses undergo appropriate and special training with schooling to deliver our own rare type of care. We assume a variety of roles. We become teachers, leaders, caregivers, advocates and sometimes priests. We administer not only to the sick, but also to the healthy. We become role models and trustworthy in the eyes of the public; acting as caregivers, communicators, counselors, research consumers and a diversity of other roles. We become chameleons of the Health Care Profession.

Florence Nightingale carried a lantern to guide her way while she cared for her clients. This becomes symbolic for all nurses. We too carry the light in caring for others. This light symbolizes hope and trust, the same emotions that Nightingale’s lantern evoked amongst her soldiers.

Let us become that light, bringing hope and trust to others who are depressed and in despair. With hope and trust, well being and content will emerge.

Doctors can order, teachers can teach and pastors will preach. But nurses, with just a gentle touch, a smile on their lips, softness to their voice, can accomplish all the intentions of these people with so little effort.

We do make a difference! Take pride in that knowledge. We, as professionals, are a unique and special breed that the world will forever need and crave for. So, to all my fellow nurses, go out there and make a difference in people’s lives; conquer that true Nursing Spirit and pass it on to everyone you come in contact with.

Public Notice

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) and the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) have amended the “Safe Drinking Water” regulations in Title 25 Chapter 4 of the American Samoa Administrative Code. These new rules become effective June 1, 2008, and are available for review at the AS-EPA office in Utulei.

The new “Safe Drinking Water” regulations include newly established fees for water testing performed by the AS-EPA Water Quality Laboratory. The fees are listed below as price per sample:

Microbiology

Total coliform / E. coli	\$ 38.00
Enterococci	\$ 38.00

Chemistry

Free residual chlorine	\$ 13.00
Ozone	\$ 13.00

Please contact AS-EPA at 633-2304 if you have any questions

Fa'asalalauga Fa'alaua'itele

Ua iai nei ni suiga fou i le tulafono mo le “Suavai Taumafa”, Ulutala 25, Mata'upu 4 i le Tusi Tulafono a le Malo o Amerika Samoa (ASC Title 2, Chapter 4). O nei suiga ile tulafono ua ta'ua na tu'ufa'atasia e le Ofisa O le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa (AS-EPA) ma le Komisi o le Si'osi'omaga (EQC), ma o le a amata ia Iuni 1, 2008. E mafai ona faitau i ia suiga i le ofisa o le AS-EPA i Utulei.

O suiga fou nei i tulafono o le “Suavai Taumafa” o lo'o fa'a'iloa ai le amatalia ona totogi le su'esu'eina o le suavai e le potu su'esu'e a le AS-EPA.

Su'eina o siama

Siama I otaota o manu ma tagata	\$38.00
Siama mai isi meaola	\$38.00

Kemisi

Su'eina o le kolorini	\$13.00
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Fa'amolemole e fa'afeso'ota'i mai le AS-EPA i le 633-2304 mo ni fesili